

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 30, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday, May 26

In chapter 3, Micah focuses on the corrupt and greedy leadership – rulers, priests, false prophets – of Israel and Judah. He warns that, as a consequence, they will lose their ability to access God's Presence. Authentic leaders serve the people entrusted to their care, and true prophets call out injustice and speak God's truth. Today we see a similar failure of moral and spiritual leadership. What can we learn from the true prophets of the past and present? And does God ever leave us?

This Sunday, June 2

We begin studying a new section of Micah – Micah chapters 4 & 5 – which in contrast to the previous three chapters, does not focus as much on God's judgment and human sin but instead offers several images of hope. However, these images of hope sometimes conflict with one another, which raises the question, what does it mean to believe that God intervenes in human affairs? Can we trust God to spare us from suffering and disaster or not?

Next Sunday, June 9

Frank will deliver the message on Micah 4:1-8.

Pentecost Chorale

Do you have an interest in choral music? Rod is trying to gather a group to sing a short Pentecost motet, "I will not leave you comfortless," for June 9. Practice is at 8:50am. Join us if you can.

CHURCH STRUCTURE EVALUATION

Cheryl Martin and Sam Bixler

On Sunday, May 26, the survey regarding the new church structure was placed in each mailbox. There are instructions on the first page of the survey. Please complete the survey and return it as indicated in the instructions. If we do not receive a response from you, we will be

contacting you. If you have any questions, please contact either Sam Bixler or Cheryl Martin.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Linda Kandel

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00am Sunday School

Sun, June 2 – Carry-in meal after SS

Mon, June 3 – Roving Office, SE

Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St

Thu, June 6 – Meal 6:30; Bible study 7-8

Mon, June 10 – Roving Office NW

Panera, 6050 W 86th

Wed, June 12 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

June 13-15 – IN-MI Annual Sessions at Amigo

Mon, June 17 – Roving Office, Greenwood

Panera, 789 U.S. 31N

Thu, June 20 – Thriving Thursdays, 5-7pm

Meal 6:30; Bible study 7-8

Mon, June 24 – Roving Office, Fishers

Della Leva, 8220 E. 106th St.

Wed, June 26 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Thu, June 27 – Thriving Thursdays, 5-7pm

Sun, June 30 – 5th Sunday Hymn Sing at

Showalter's, 6-8pm

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

Thriving Thursdays are back!

We are planning for 5 Thriving Thursdays beginning on June 20th. This year we are focusing on ***Living Lives of Peace***, guided by the *Peace Lab* MennoMedia Bible School Curriculum.

See attachment for details. You can help on Thursdays from 5-7pm. Let Frank know when and where you can help. Kandel93@gmail.com or 309-532-2859.

Sharing Space

The Julian Center is the focus for our Sharing Space in June.

- Office equipment/supplies
- School supplies
- Books
- Artwork
- Services (building repairs, landscaping, etc)
- Cell phones
- Clothing, toys, household goods, and furniture

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Chair: Laura Harms

Content for future Mileposts

If you are interested in writing an occasional article for the Milespost section OR if you have a blog/website you regularly read for spiritual guidance that you think could provide good content for our Milepost section, please contact Laura at office@shalommennonite.com so she can coordinate the content while Brian is on sabbatical.

Minutes

Minutes from the VAT meeting on May 25 were uploaded to the Shalom website.

Indiana-Michigan Annual Sessions

Worship services are free to attend

- Thursday, June 13 at 2:30 and 7pm;
- Friday, June 14 at 8:20am and 7pm;
- Saturday, June 15 at 10:30am.

We are excited to announce that there will be English to Spanish simultaneous translation available. For more information visit

<https://im.mennonite.net>

MennoCon19

There is still time to register for MennoCon19! Come for a couple days or the whole time. Get more info and register at

convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration

MILEPOST #682 **Righteousness vs Justice**

In the introductory sermon of our Micah series, I cited a verse in Ephesians that claims that the Christian church is built “on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.” (Eph 2:19-20) This passage emphasizes how important the prophetic writings were in the formation of our faith. However, if this is true, one wonders why so few of the concerns of the prophets show up in the New Testament. For example, in the three chapters of Micah that we have studied so far, we have heard Micah express concerns about bribery, unfair housing policies, and the cost of militarization. But none of these issues really come up in the writings of the New Testament apostles. While the prophets have a lot to say about public morality or justice, the New Testament writers focus primarily on personal morality or righteousness. What are we to make of this discrepancy?

I believe that the differences between a prophetic book like Micah and an epistle 1 Peter has more to do with their different audiences than with different beliefs. Micah was preaching in public. He was focused on the ways in which his society as a whole was veering from God’s plan for them, with special attention given to its political and religious leaders. Peter was writing a private letter to his fellow Christians. He was focused on encouraging them to live as ethically as possible, knowing that they were a minority group with little influence over national and international issues. Given these contexts, it is not surprising that the prophetic writings give more attention to justice while the letters of the apostles are more focused on righteousness. To use a modern analogy, if an internet researcher wanted to learn what issues I cared about by pouring through my emails to Shalom members, they would probably come to the conclusion that I don’t care about justice much at all, because I usually focus on personal and church matters in those emails. However, if that same researcher studied me by looking at my social media posts, they would probably conclude that justice is one of the only things I care about – because that is an outlet I commonly use to invoke public support for issues that matter. To get a full picture of what kinds of things matter to me, you would have to draw from different kinds of sources.

Similarly, to get a full picture of what kinds of things matter to God, we have to draw from the

different sources and genres in Scripture. We can't afford to focus just on the prophets or just on the epistles – we need both! After all, justice and righteousness go hand-in-hand. You can't have justice if individual people in society don't choose to be righteous, and it is very hard for individuals to experience healthy moral development in an unjust society. Indeed, the Biblical languages don't even have different words for justice and righteousness – it's all the same thing to them! May the Spirit of God direct and empower us to seek this righteousness/justice both in our personal lives and in our communities.

--Pastor Brian Bither

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 shalommennonite.com

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Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to
office@shalommennonite.com